

VERBENA PLANT NAMED 'SUNTAPILABU'

Botanical/commercial classification:

Verbena hybrida/Verbena Plant

5 Varietal denomination: cv. 'Suntapilabu'

BACKGROUND OF THE VARIETY

10 The present invention relates to a new variety of
Verbena plant originated from crossing of a Verbena
hybrid variety called 'T86-99-2' as the female parent and
'T85-99-2' as the male parent.

15 The verbena is a very popular plant and is used for
flower bedding and potting in the summer season. There
are only a few varieties of Verbena plants which have a
spreading growth habit, abundant branching, a large
number of flowers in clusters and a high resistance to
rain, heat, cold, and disease. Accordingly, this
20 invention was aimed at obtaining a new variety having a
decumbent and compact growth habit, many branches, a
large number of flowers in clusters, high tolerance to
heat, rain, drought and cold, and resistance to disease
and pests combined with strong purple petal coloration.

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Progress

30 The female parent 'T86-99-2' (unpatented) used in
the crossing of 'Suntapilabu' is a strain of our breeding
lines, having a decumbent growth habit with long stems.
It forms abundant clusters of attractive purplish white
blossoms.

35 The male parent 'T85-99-2' (unpatented) used in the
crossing of 'Suntapilabu' is a strain of our breeding
lines, having a decumbent growth habit with long stems.
It forms abundant clusters of attractive light blue

blossoms.

5 In March 1999, crossing of 'T86-99-2' as the female
parent and 'T85-99-2' as the male parent was conducted at
Yokaichi-shi, Shiga-ken, Japan. In June 1999, seedlings
were obtained from that crossing. These seedlings were
grown in pots in glasshouses and were evaluated. 5
seedlings were selected in view of its growth habit and
flower color in October 2000. That seedling was
10 propagated by cutting and a trial was carried out by
flower potting and bedding from May to October 2001. The
botanical characteristics of that plant were then
examined, using similar varieties 'Sunmaref TP-L' (U.S.
Plant Pat. No. 9121) and 'Sunmaref TP-V' (U.S. Plant Pat.
15 No. 9411) for comparison. As a result, one plant was
selected and concluded that this Verbena plant is
distinguishable from any other variety, whose existence
is known to us, and is uniform and stable in its
characteristics. Then the new variety of Verbena plant
20 was named 'Suntapilabu'.

In the following description, the color-coding is in
accordance with the Horticultural Colour Chart of The
Royal Horticultural Society, London, England (R.H.S.
25 Colour Chart).

SUMMARY OF THE VARIETY

30 This new variety is unlike any Verbena commercially
available as evidenced by the following unique
combinations of characteristics.

1. Decumbent and compact growth habit with
abundant branching.
2. Plentiful number of flowers in a spike having a
35 great profusion of blooms with the entire plant remaining
in bloom for a considerable period of time.
3. Long flowering duration.

4. The petal color is strong purple (R.H.S. N81B).

5. The plant has a high resistance to rain, heat, disease and pests.

5 The new variety 'Suntapilabu' differs from the similar variety 'Sunmaref TP-L' in the following points.

1. The spreading area of 'Suntapilabu' is smaller than that of 'Sunmaref TP-L'.

2. The flower color of 'Suntapilabu' is strong
10 purple (R.H.S. N81B). That of 'Sunmaref TP-L' is brilliant purple (R.H.S. N88C).

3. The peduncle length of 'Suntapilabu' is shorter than that of 'Sunmaref TP-L'.

4. The flower fragrance of 'Suntapilabu' is
15 present. That of 'Sunmaref TP-L' is absent.

The new variety 'Suntapilabu' differs from the similar variety 'Sunmaref TP-V' in the following points.

1. The spreading area of 'Suntapilabu' is smaller
20 than that of 'Sunmaref TP-V'.

2. The leaf of 'Suntapilabu' is smaller than that of 'Sunmaref TP-L'.

3. The spike length of 'Suntapilabu' is shorter than that of 'Sunmaref TP-V'.

4. The flower color of 'Suntapilabu' is strong
25 purple (R.H.S. N81B). That of 'Sunmaref TP-V' is vivid purple (R.H.S. N81A).

30 The new variety of Verbena Plant 'Suntapilabu' was asexually reproduced by the use of cuttings at Yokaichishi, Shiga-ken, Japan, and homogeneity and stability thereof were confirmed. The instant plant retains its distinctive characteristics and reproduces true to type in successive generations.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPH

The depicted plants had been reproduced by the use of cuttings and were photographed during April 2003 while growing outdoors in 24 cm pots at an age of approximately 6 months at Yokaichi-shi, Shiga-ken, Japan.

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FIG. 1 illustrates a typical plant of the new variety of Verbena plant 'Suntapilabu' while growing in a pot.

FIG. 2 illustrates a close view of typical blossoms of the new variety of Verbena plant 'Suntapilabu'.

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DESCRIPTION OF THE VARIETY

The botanical characteristics of the new and distinct variety of Verbena plant named 'Suntapilabu' are as follows when observed during October at Yokaichi-shi, Shiga-ken, Japan, at an age of approximately 6 months.

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Plant:

Growth habit.-- Decumbent.

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Plant width.-- Approximately 62 cm.

Plant height.-- Approximately 17 cm.

Stem:

Diameter.-- Approximately 2.0 mm.

Anthocyanin pigmentation.-- Present.

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Pubescence.-- Sparse.

Prickles.-- Absent.

Branching.-- Abundant.

Subterranean stem.-- Absent.

Length of internode.-- Approximately 3.0 cm.

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Leaf:

Phyllotaxis.-- Opposite.

Shape of blade.-- Hastate.

Apex shape.-- Obtuse.

Base shape.-- Truncate.

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Margin.-- Pinnatisect.

Length.-- Approximately 2.0 cm.

Width.-- Approximately 2.0 cm.

Color.-- R.H.S. 137A (dark olive green).

Pubescence.-- Normal.

Petiole.-- Absent.

Flower:

5 Shape of cluster.-- Obconical.

 Spike length.-- Approximately 2.5 cm.

 Spike diameter.-- Approximately 5.5 cm.

 Facing direction.-- Upward.

 Floret diameter.-- Approximately 1.7 cm.

10 Floret length.-- Approximately 1.3 cm.

 Color of petal.-- R.H.S. N81B (strong purple).

 Eye color.-- Present.

 Variegation.-- Absent.

 Petal apex.-- Emarginate.

15 Number of petals.-- Generally 5.

 Calyx length.-- Approximately 0.9 cm.

 Calyx shape.-- Tubular. Sepals having an acute apex in
fused at the base.

 Reproductive organs.-- 1 pistil and 4 stamens.

20 Pistil shape.-- Bifid.

 Anther color.-- R.H.S. 1B (yellow green).

 Filament color.-- R.H.S. 1B (yellow green).

 Pollen.-- Present in a moderate quantity.

 Stigma color.-- R.H.S. 4D (pale yellow green).

25 Style color.-- R.H.S. 144B (strong yellow green).

 Ovaries.-- Commonly four in number.

 Peduncle diameter.-- Approximately 2.0 mm.

 Peduncle length.-- Approximately 3.0 cm.

 Peduncle color.-- R.H.S. 137C (moderate yellow green).

30 Number of flowers.-- Abundant.

 Flower fragrance.-- Present.

 Flowering period.-- April to November in the southern
Kanto area, Japan. The plant shape does not change
throughout this period. A typical flower commonly lasts 5
35 to 7days on the plant when experiencing a temperature of
approximately 20°C.

Physiological and ecological characteristics:

Resistance to rain.-- High.

Tolerance to cold.-- High.

Tolerance to heat.-- High.

Resistance to disease.-- High.

5 Resistance to pests.-- High.